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Clean Copy of the Claims

1-2. (Cancelled)

3. (Previously Presented) A screw-type kneading/extruding machine comprising:

a cylinder having a vent opening; and

a screw rotatably inserted in the cylinder, the screw having an upstream section, an intermediate section, and a downstream section,

wherein the screw, from the intermediate portion toward the downstream section, includes an agitating portion, a kneading/transporting portion, and a plurality of screw pieces capable of renewing a surface of a raw material,

wherein the screw pieces are located at a position corresponding to the vent opening such that the screw pieces are within an axial length range of the vent opening, and

wherein each of the screw pieces is formed of any one of a feed type kneading screw piece, a twist kneading screw piece, a rotary screw piece and a cut-flight screw piece.

4. (Previously Presented) A screw-type kneading/extruding machine according to claim 3, wherein the screw pieces are disposed within an axial length range of 10 to 100% of the axial opening length of the vent opening.

5. (Previously Presented) The screw-type kneading/extruding machine according to claim 4, wherein the screw pieces strongly agitate the raw material to allow volatile components of the raw material to be discharged from the vent opening.

6. (Previously Presented) The screw-type kneading/extruding machine according to claim 4, wherein the agitating portion is located upstream of the vent opening.